

IOWA | DOT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



**PLOWING THROUGH
THE REGULATIONS:**
A Farmer's Guide to
Iowa Transportation



The guide is intended to summarize commercial vehicle rules and regulations and is not intended to be used for legal guidance or as a substitute for applicable local, state and federal statutes. While every attempt has been made to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in this book, it is not a detailed explanation of all applicable local, state and federal statutes. By use of this resource, the reader agrees the Iowa Department of Transportation assumes no liability or responsibility for the reader's understanding and compliance to the rules and regulations.

We appreciate our Iowa farmers and want to make sure you can navigate the laws, regulations, and exemptions that pertain to farm transportation. Use this resource to help you get started.

What Federal Regulations Apply to Iowa Farm Vehicles?

Generally, regulations administered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) apply to all commercial motor vehicles (GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more or any vehicle transporting hazardous materials). FMCSA regulations include requirements pertaining to weight, driver's licensing requirements, hazardous material requirements, hours of service, and vehicle inspections (repair and maintenance). Some of these regulations are exempted for farm vehicles operated for agricultural purposes depending on how the vehicle is being used

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21 for short, was signed into law in 2012, but you may still hear it referenced even today. MAP-21 created a definition for "covered farm vehicle" and provided specific exemptions and regulations pertaining to such vehicles.

Although implements of husbandry are generally not regulated by federal laws, each state has definitions and regulations that apply to implements of husbandry, and it is important to understand these state requirements.



COVERED FARM VEHICLES

What's a Covered Farm Vehicle?

Covered farm vehicles in Iowa include those used for agricultural purposes, such as transporting commodities, livestock, machinery, or supplies.



A covered farm vehicle must be registered as a special farm truck (special farm license plate or “farm” sticker issued to the vehicle and applied to the plate), or the “Designation as an Iowa Covered Farm Vehicle” form must be carried in the vehicle.



“Farm” sticker

A covered farm vehicle:

- Is operated by the farm owner, operator, their employees, or family members.
- Transports agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery, or supplies to or from a farm (but not large quantities of hazardous materials).
- Is not used for hire, except for tenant operations under a crop share agreement.

How do I Designate my Vehicle as a Covered Farm Vehicle?

Let your county treasurer know that you would like to register the vehicle as a covered farm vehicle. Covered farm vehicles must be equipped with a special farm license plate or a “Farm” sticker on the license plate to allow law enforcement personnel to identify the vehicle as a covered farm vehicle.

Vehicle owners that do not have a special farm plate or “Farm” sticker can complete a [“Designation as an Iowa Covered Farm Vehicle” form](#) online or at any Iowa county treasurer’s office. There is no fee required. The completed form must be carried in the power unit of the covered farm vehicle during all operations under the exemptions and must be available for inspection by law enforcement personnel.

There are several other considerations at play when registering your vehicle. More information about registering your covered farm vehicle is available at iowadot.gov/farmersafety/Covered-farm-vehicle-exceptions.

Where Can Covered Farm Vehicles Operate?

- If the covered farm vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), gross combination weight rating (GCWR), gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight of **26,001 pounds or less**, it may operate anywhere in Iowa and any other state under the covered farm vehicle exemptions. It is important to remember that the weight rating (not just gross weight) be considered.
- Covered farm vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR), or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight that is **more than 26,001 pounds** can operate anywhere in Iowa and across state lines, but this is only permissible when operated within 150 air miles of the farm/ranch's operation.

Size and Weight Regulations for Covered Farm Vehicles

Vehicle regulations for weight, width, height, and length are in effect, unless exempted by an Iowa emergency proclamation.

All vehicles, including farm vehicles, must comply with posted weight and load limits on Iowa roads and bridges for safety and infrastructure integrity. You may need to apply for an oversize/overweight permit if your load cannot be divided.

Covered farm vehicles are still always required to abide by posted weight and load limits on roads and bridges in Iowa.

Driver's License Requirements for Covered Farm Vehicles

The person operating a covered farm vehicle does not need a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate within the covered farm vehicle exemptions. A Class C operator's license is sufficient to operate a covered farm vehicle, including a truck-

tractor/semitrailer combination, provided the vehicle stays within Iowa (or stays within 150 miles from the farm if traveling outside of Iowa).

What Else is Exempted for Covered Farm Vehicles?

When operating a covered farm vehicle:

- No controlled substance or alcohol testing is required.
- No physical examination and Medical Examiner's Certificate are needed.
- Hours of service regulations do not apply.
- Covered farm vehicles are not subject to certain inspections relating to repair and maintenance, including the daily vehicle inspection or periodic inspection. However, law enforcement may perform an inspection to determine compliance with equipment standards and other Iowa laws, including inspection of the load.

Interstate/Intrastate Travel Authority and USDOT Numbers

Farm vehicles that operate exclusively within Iowa by farmers operating for their own farming purposes do not need a USDOT number and do not need to obtain intrastate travel authority.

Farm exemptions do not waive the travel authority, registration, fuel tax, or vehicle marking (USDOT number) requirements for CMVs used in a for-hire capacity (i.e. commerce purposes such as transporting goods for-hire).

If the farm vehicle is used to transport hazardous materials that require placarding, it will need to have a USDOT number.

If you're unsure whether this applies to you/your operations, contact the Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit of the Iowa State Patrol or FMCSA.



PERMITS

WEIGHT, HEIGHT, LENGTH, AND WIDTH OF VEHICLES

If a farm vehicle is too big or too heavy, you need to apply for a permit, unless there is an emergency proclamation in place that waives these requirements. The permit helps find the safest routes for the load.



Here are some common scenarios where Iowa farmers may need permits:

- 1. Overweight or Oversize Loads:** If a farm vehicle exceeds the weight or size limits set by Iowa regulations, a permit may be required for the transportation of overweight or oversize loads.
- 2. Special Equipment:** Certain types of special equipment used in agricultural operations may require special permits.
- 3. Exemptions and Regulations:** Depending on exemptions and regulations, some farm vehicles may be subject to permit requirements for specific purposes or activities.

With some exceptions, most loads must be considered indivisible to be eligible for an oversize or overweight permit.

An indivisible load or vehicle is a load or vehicle exceeding applicable length, height, width, or weight limits that if separated into smaller loads or vehicles would:

- Compromise the intended use of the vehicle (i.e., make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended).
- Destroy the value of the load or vehicle (i.e., make it unusable for its intended purpose).
- Require more than eight work hours to dismantle the load using the appropriate equipment. (The applicant for an indivisible load permit has the burden of proof as to the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.)

Things to Remember

- Make sure you have a permit for each type of road you are traveling on.
- In most cases, you must apply for state, county, and city permits separately.
- State-issued permits are not valid on county and city highways, except for an all-systems permit issued by the DOT and authorized by a participating county or city.
- County and city permits are not valid on state highways.
- Read your permit carefully. It will tell you how long the permit is good for and when and where you can use it.

How do I Know if My Farm Vehicle is too Heavy, Long, Wide, or Tall?

If your farm vehicle (including the load) exceeds the maximum weight, length, width, or height regulations outlined below, you may need to apply for a permit.

Note: Compliance with posted bridges, bridge embargoes, and any other roadway limits is mandatory, even if you have a permit allowing you to exceed size and weight requirements.

No divisible load may travel on the interstate at more than 80,000 pounds.

LEGAL DIMENSIONS

A permit is typically required if vehicle dimensions exceed:

Width	<p>8 feet 6 inches</p> <p>*The total outside width of a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting a divisible load of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding shall not exceed 12 feet 5 inches.</p> <p>However, if hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding is moved on an implement of husbandry and the total width of load of the implement of husbandry exceeds 12 feet 5 inches, the implement of husbandry is not required to have a permit.</p>
Height	<p>13 feet 6 inches</p> <p>*A vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting a divisible load of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding may operate with a height not to exceed 14 feet 6 inches.</p>
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45-foot single vehicle • 53-foot trailer, loaded or empty • 57-foot lowboy trailers used exclusively for the transportation of construction equipment
Weight	<p>A permit is typically required if vehicle gross weight exceeds 80,000 pounds. Maximum individual axle weight allowed under permit is 20,000 pounds per axle.</p> <p>Permitted loads must be nondivisible unless you are operating under the All Systems Overweight permit. Trucks or combinations transporting raw agricultural products are allowed to operate in excess of their registration weight by up to 25 percent when in Iowa.</p>

See the back of this publication for a full listing of allowable maximum weights based on axles and roadway type.

Exceptions

Many types of implements of husbandry are exempt from axle weight limits when operated on the highway. Weight exempt implements include farm tractors, combines, gravity-flow grain wagons, tillage equipment, and similar equipment.

Implements not included in the axle weight exemption are:

- Self-propelled ag-lime, fertilizer, and chemical applicators
- Wheeled grain carts, tank wagons, and fence-line feeders
- Tracked grain carts, tank wagons, and fence-line feeders

Self-propelled agricultural ag-lime, fertilizer, and chemical applicators may be operated as implements of husbandry, but are subject to weight limits when operated on any public roadway.

Five-Axle Livestock Transports with a Spread-Axle Semitrailer

A five-axle truck tractor/spread-axle semitrailer combination transporting livestock is allowed a maximum gross weight of up to **86,000 pounds**, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- The vehicle combination must have at least 61 feet of distance between the first and last axles on the combination.
- The semitrailer spread-axle must have at least 8 feet 1 inch of spacing.
- Must transport livestock only.
- Must not travel on the Interstate Highway System when exceeding 80,000 pounds gross weight.
- Must comply with posted bridge embargoes or roadway weight limits.

Visit the [Motor Carrier Customer Services web page](#) to learn more about whether a permit is required for your operation and get your permit if needed:

iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/oversize-overweight-trip-permits

What are you hauling?		Loads that can be divided into smaller loads	Hay/Straw/ Stover/Bagged livestock bedding
What are you driving?	Where are you going?		
Farm tractor attached to a wagon	On the farm	No permit needed	
	Leaving the farm (in-state)	No permit needed (exempt under Iowa Code 321.453) Must maintain a speed of 35 MPH or less, and cannot travel on the interstate or some highways that have minimum speeds of 40 mph.	
	Leaving the farm (out of state)	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.	
Pickup truck attached to a trailer	On the farm	No permit	
	Leaving the farm (in-state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If overweight only, need annual all-systems overweight permit. • No oversize permit allowed. • Refer to Annual All-Systems Permit Fact Sheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit needed if width under 12' 5" and height is under 14' 6".
	Leaving the farm (out-of-state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state's laws. • For Iowa, if overweight, need annual all-systems overweight permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state's laws. • For Iowa, no permit is needed if width is under 12' 5" and height is under 14' 6".

What are you hauling?		Loads that can be divided into smaller loads	Hay/Straw/Stover/Bagged livestock bedding
What are you driving?	Where are you going?	 	
Truck tractor attached to a semi trailer	On the farm	No permit	
	Leaving the farm (in-state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If overweight only, an annual all-systems overweight permit is needed. • No oversize permit allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit needed if width under 12' 5" and height is under 14' 6".
	Leaving the farm (out of state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state's laws. • For Iowa, if overweight, need annual all-systems overweight permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state's laws. • For Iowa, no permit is needed if width is under 12' 5" and height is under 14' 6".

Permits for Hauling Implements of Husbandry

The following chart shows permit requirements if you are only hauling implements of husbandry.

Truck tractor, farm tractor, or straight truck hauling an implement of husbandry	On the farm	No permit needed
	Leaving the farm (in-state)	If driven by a farmer, no permit needed for non-interstate travel.
	Leaving the farm (out of state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state's laws. • For Iowa, no permit needed for non-interstate travel if driven by a farmer.
Self-propelled implements of husbandry	On the farm	No permit needed
	Leaving the farm (in-state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit needed (exempt under Iowa Code 321.453). • Must maintain a speed of 35 MPH or less, and cannot travel on the interstate
	Leaving the farm (out of state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check other state laws. • No Permit Needed in Iowa (exempt under Iowa Code 321.453). • Must maintain a speed of 35 MPH or less, and cannot travel on the interstate

Other Permits

- The Iowa DOT may issue an annual **“All Systems Overweight Permit”** that is valid on all state and certain county highways for the operation of overweight divisible loads that do not exceed the weight limits by more than 12 percent. This permit is \$500 and is valid for 12 months.
- The Iowa DOT may issue an annual permit that is valid on state highways for the operation of overweight vehicles, or a combination of vehicles, transporting divisible loads of raw forest products from fields to storage, processing, or other commercial facilities.



DRIVER'S LICENSING REQUIREMENTS



Driver's Licensing Requirements for Operating Farm Vehicles

A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is not necessary for covered farm vehicles if you are a farmer or employee of the farm and operating a vehicle that's been properly registered as a covered farm vehicle. An operator can use a Class C operator's license, which is adequate for operating covered farm vehicles, including truck-tractor/semitrailer combinations.

If you are not operating a covered farm vehicle and believe you may need a CDL, please visit iowadot.gov for information about how to apply for one.

Remember:

- Covered farm vehicles must be operated by the farm/ranch owner, an employee, or a family member.
- Transportation must be of agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery, or supplies to and from a farm or ranch.
- Vehicles should not be operated for hire and should not transport hazardous materials requiring placarding.

The chart on the following page will help to summarize commonly encountered scenarios and licensing requirements in Iowa.

What Are You Driving?	Where Are You Driving?	License You Will Need	Special Rules
Implement of Husbandry (Farm tractor, feeder, combine, etc.)	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	
	Public road within 2 miles of the farm	No DL needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 mph max speed. • Rear reflective devices required.
	Public roads more than 2 miles from the farm (in-state)	Class C operator required.	
	Leaving the state	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.
Special Mobile Equipment (Construction machinery, maintenance machinery, etc.)	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	
	Public roads	No DL needed. The use of special mobile equipment is not allowed unless used for farm work-related purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 mph max speed. • Rear reflective devices required.
	Leaving the state	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.

What Are You Driving?	Where Are You Driving?	License You Will Need	Special Rules
ATV/UTV	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	No registration required if used exclusively as a farm implement.
	Public road within 2 miles of the farm	No DL needed.	
	Public roads more than 2 miles from the farm (in-state)	Class C operator required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can only be operated on a highway if incidental to agricultural purposes. • If used as an implement operation must be between sunrise and sunset and be equipped with a slow-moving vehicle sign
	Leaving the state	Check with jurisdiction/ state you are driving in.	Check with jurisdiction/state you are driving in.

What Are You Driving?	Where Are You Driving?	License You Will Need	Special Rules
Pickup + Heavy Trailer (GCWR of 26,001+ and towing 10,000+ lbs GVWR)	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	
	Public road within 2 miles of the farm	Class C operator required.	
	Public roads more than 2 miles from the farm (in-state)	Class C operator required.	
	Leaving the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class C Operator license required if operating as a covered farm vehicle within 150 air miles of farm. 	If operating as covered farm vehicle, you must have either a special farm plate, the "Farm" sticker on the plate, or carry a completed "Designation as Iowa Covered Farm Vehicle" form. Reference the MAP-21 Farmer Exemptions for details.
Light straight truck (single vehicle with a GVWR less than 26,001 lbs)	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	
	Public road within 2 miles of the farm	Class C operator required.	
	Public roads more than 2 miles from the farm (in-state)	Class C operator required.	
	Leaving the state	Check with jurisdiction/ state you are driving in.	

What Are You Driving?	Where Are You Driving?	License You Will Need	Special Rules
Semi-Truck/ Tractor-trailer (GCWR of 26,001lbs+ towing 10,000+ lbs GVWR)	Staying on the farm (private land, no use of public roadways)	No DL needed.	
	Public roads (in-state)	Class C Operator license required if operating as a covered farm vehicle.	
	Leaving the state	Class A CDL needed unless you're operating as a covered farm vehicle within 150 air miles of the farm, then a Class C Operator license is required.	If operating as covered farm vehicle, you must have either a special farm plate, the "Farm" sticker on the plate, or carry a completed "Designation as Iowa Covered Farm Vehicle" form.

Grain haulers and custom harvesters may need a Restricted CDL.

Visit iowadot.gov

for more information about Restricted CDLs.



FARM VEHICLE REGISTRATION

When operating on public roadways, farm vehicles, including trucks, trailers, and other vehicles used for agricultural purposes, must be registered.



Vehicles that are used for Iowa farm/agricultural purposes will be titled and registered by the county treasurer and will receive an Iowa title, registration, and license plate. This county-registration will allow for operation throughout Iowa. Let your county treasurer know if you want to designate your vehicle as a covered farm vehicle.

If a vehicle owned by a farm engages in for-hire or commercial operations across state lines, then the truck and/or trailer will be subject to International Registration Plan (IRP) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) requirements. This means the vehicle will need to be registered by the Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Division. Visit us at: iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers.

Registering a Farm Vehicle at the County Treasurer Office

- Special farm plates are subject to the 5 percent* and 25 percent raw agriculture** registration weight tolerance when used in Iowa.
- The 5 percent and 25 percent tolerances still cannot exceed the weight tables in 321.463, unless operating under an overweight permit issued by the Iowa DOT's Motor Carrier Services. **The weight tables are included at the back of this publication for your reference.**
- Farm vehicles require registration based on the gross weight, encompassing both the vehicle itself and any trailers or additional cargo you intend to haul. Consider registration weight using the following formula:
Registration weight ≥ truck weight + trailer(s) + cargo
Please note: This applies even when you are obtaining an all-systems overweight permit (allowing you to exceed weight limits by 12%). You will need to register your vehicle to account for the heavier gross weight of the vehicle and the load.

- When registering as a covered farm vehicle, a truck tractor may not be operated more than 15,000 miles annually. Truck tractors must certify the mileage annually.
- Regardless of which license plate you buy, you will be required to purchase the proper registration weight on the power unit license. Trailers must also be registered but do not have registration weight.
- Iowa's special farm registration is recognized in Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota.
- Registration plates issued for special straight trucks are not required for combined gross weight when pulling a farm trailer or implement of husbandry.
- A motor truck in combination with a trailer or semitrailer, operated by a farmer or private carrier hauling horses, with county level registration or special farm registration may qualify for a gross registration weight exception. The exception does not apply to for-hire carriers, truck-tractors, or outside the state of Iowa.
- **Business-trade plate:** A business-trade truck is defined as a motor truck from the model year 2010 or later, with an unladen weight not exceeding 10,000 pounds. Ownership of this truck is limited to corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, or individuals filing a schedule C or schedule F form with the federal internal revenue service.
 - A leased vehicle qualifies as a business-trade truck if the lessee is a corporation, LLC, or partnership and the truck is primarily used for business operations. If the lessee is an individual who files a schedule C or schedule F with the IRS, the truck must be primarily used for their own business or farming to qualify.

Weight Tolerance Examples

*5 percent registration weight tolerance for all vehicles:

When in Iowa, all trucks and combinations are allowed to operate in excess of their registration weight by up to 5 percent, but are not allowed to exceed the maximum gross weight listed in the wheelbase tables.

Example: Provided it has adequate wheelbase and axles for the gross weight, a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination licensed for 38 tons will be allowed to weigh 79,800 pounds:

38 tons = 76,000 pounds; multiplied by 5 percent nets a 3,800 pound registration tolerance.

Adding the 5 percent registration tolerance to the license weight provides a total license weight of 79,800 pounds.
(76,000 x 5% = 3,800 + 76,000 = 79,800)

**25 percent registration weight tolerance for raw agricultural products:

When in Iowa, trucks or combinations transporting raw agricultural products are allowed to operate in excess of their registration weight by up to 25 percent, but are not allowed to exceed the maximum gross weight listed in the wheelbase tables.

Example: Provided it has adequate wheelbase and axles for the gross weight, a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination transporting raw agricultural products licensed for 32 tons will be allowed to weigh 80,000 pounds:

32 tons = 64,000 pounds; multiplied by 25 percent nets a 16,000 pound registration tolerance.

Adding the 25 percent registration tolerance to the license weight provides a total license weight of 80,000 pounds.
(64,000 x 25% = 16,000 + 64,000 = 80,000)

The 5 percent and 25 percent registration weight tolerances do not apply to the maximum axle weights provided in the wheelbase tables, only to license registration weight.

Example: A truck-tractor/semitrailer combination with seven axles transporting raw agricultural products that wants to carry the maximum of 96,000 pounds will need to be registered for 39 tons.

39 tons = 78,000 pounds; multiplied by 25 percent nets a 19,500 pound registration tolerance.

Adding the 25 percent registration tolerance to the registered weight provides a total registered weight of 97,500 pounds. **However, Iowa law caps the total weight actually allowed to a maximum of 96,000.**

No overweight loads may operate on the interstate at more than 80,000 pounds without a permit. Divisible loads are not eligible for interstate permits.

Review the following list to see if you qualify as hauling raw agricultural products.

Raw Ag Products

Ag-lime	Fresh vegetables	Peat
Blood	Grain, threshed	Potatoes
Corn cobs	Grain, unthreshed	Raw dairy products
Dead animals	Hair	Raw milk
Ear corn	Hay, baled/loose	Saw logs
Eggs, fresh/frozen	Hides	Separated cream
Firewood	Honey	Shelled corn
Flax	Honeycomb	Sod
Flax seed	Live poultry	Soil fertilizer
Fodder	Livestock	Soybeans
Fresh berries	Melons	Straw, baled/loose
Fresh fruit	Nursery stock	Wool

Heavy Vehicle Use Tax Required on Large Trucks

Federal Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax is assessed on large trucks by the IRS to help pay for the construction and maintenance of roads. Federal law requires the State of Iowa to verify payment of this tax when a truck is registered for 55,000 pounds or more. You will be required to provide proof of payment or proof of exemption, stamped by the IRS, when making application for registration 55,000 pounds or more.

Be Aware If You Travel Out of State:

- Generally, drivers crossing state lines for business purposes have to be registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) to fairly distribute registration fees between states. However, Iowa has entered reciprocity agreements with other states for farmers to travel certain distances. For more information on reciprocity agreements, visit: iowadot.gov/farmersafety/frequently-asked-questions
- If your vehicle is registered but you are crossing state lines for compensation, you may need either a trip permit or to be registered under the International Registration Plan.

Farm Vehicles Exempt from Registration

What vehicles do NOT get an Iowa registration and license plate? The following are certain vehicle types and situations when a farmer does NOT need to register a vehicle, and the vehicle will not have an Iowa license plate.

Please note that these exemptions from registration apply to Iowa only. If you use any of these vehicles or combinations in other states, they may be subject to registration / license plate requirements.

Vehicle	Does it need to be registered?
<p>Implement of Husbandry: Designed and used exclusively for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>Examples: tractors, grain haulers, combines, and hay balers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not need to be titled and registered. • May be used on a public road, but must not operate over 35MPH and may not exceed structural weight limits.
<p>Special Mobile Equipment (SME): May be motorized or non-motorized (towed). Are not primarily designed to transport people or goods. Only used incidentally on a highway.</p> <p>Examples: construction equipment like a bulldozer or Bobcat; or towed equipment such as a wood chipper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not need to be titled and registered.
<p>Farm vehicles used exclusively on private property</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not need to be registered. • Allowed to cross the highway only to travel between farm properties.
<p>All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) or Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not need to be registered for use on private property. • If you intend to use an ATV/UTV on public roadways, you need to obtain Department of Natural Resources registration through the County Recorder. • ATV/UTV registration is not available from the County Treasurer, and these vehicles will not receive an Iowa license plate.

Vehicle	Does it need to be registered?
<p>Farm Trailers: Bumper-hitch livestock, flatbed and utility trailers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not need to be registered if used exclusively on the farm. However, trailers are subject to the same lighting, safety, and axle weight regulations as registered trailers. • Must be registered if used for any non-farm purpose. • Semitrailers and gooseneck trailers may not be considered a farm trailer and must always be registered.

Farm Trailers

“Farm trailer” means a trailer used exclusively by a farmer in the conduct of the farmer’s agricultural operations. Examples of Farm Trailers include but are not limited to bumper-hitch, livestock, flatbed and utility trailers used for hauling harvested crops, transporting animals, and carrying farm machinery or supplies.

Unlike implements of husbandry, which are only for agriculture purposes farm trailers can be used for other purposes too. Bumper-hitch livestock, flatbed, and utility trailers are considered farm trailers if used only for farming. In this case, they don’t need to be registered. However, they are still subject to the same lighting, safety, and axle weight regulations as registered trailers.

Reconstructed Semi-Trailers

A semitrailer used exclusively for agricultural operations can be classified as an implement of husbandry if it is permanently modified with a converter dolly. When these modified semitrailers are towed by farm tractors, they must meet lighting requirements for implements. They are also exempt from axle weight limits and are not required to be registered.

Semitrailers attached to a detachable converter dolly are not considered reconstructed and do not get the same exceptions as implements.

Implements of Husbandry

An "Implement of husbandry" is a vehicle or equipment designed exclusively for agricultural use and primarily used in farming operations. The implement may be self-propelled or it may be a towed vehicle. Implements may include fence-line feeders, tractors, plows, harrows, seeders, combines, and other special equipment. Implements may also include ATVs/UTVs if using exclusively for farm purposes.

Self-Propelled Implements of Husbandry

- Slow-moving vehicle sign is required.
- Lighting and reflectors must be operational and maintained, and lighting must be visible from 500 ft.

When operated between sunset and sunrise, the following are required:

- One-lighted white headlamp visible to the front.
- One-lighted red tail lamp visible to the rear.
- One-lighted amber flashing light visible to the rear.
- Yield half of the roadway to other traffic.
- Comply with weight limits posted for bridges.
- Operate on public highways at speeds of 35 mph or less.
 - Failure to do so will result in loss of implement of husbandry exemption and penalties.
- Have a valid operator driver's license, unless operating less than two miles away from the farm.

Towed Implements of Husbandry

When operated between sunset and sunrise, the following are required:

- One-lighted red tail lamp visible to the rear of rearmost towed implement.
- If visibility of lighted amber flashing light on towing implement is obstructed, an additional lighted amber flashing light is required.
- Operate safely at or below posted speed limits.
- Yield half of the roadway to other traffic.
- Maximum of three implements allowed in a combination.
- Pickups require service brakes acting on all wheels and need a safety chain of sufficient strength to hold the weight of the towed implement.

Motor trucks, truck-tractors, pickups, gooseneck livestock trailers, flatbed trailers, and semitrailers are not considered implements of husbandry.

Vehicle	Driving for Yourself	Driving For-Hire in Exchange for Compensation
ATV/UTV	When traveling in Iowa, registration is needed with the county recorder if entering a highway right-of-way or entering the highway.	
Pickup	When traveling in Iowa, registration needed, (1) regular county registration or (2) may qualify for special farm registration or (3) may qualify for business trade registration	When traveling in Iowa, regular county registration required or may qualify for business trade registration
Bumper-hitch livestock, flatbed, utility trailers used exclusively by the farmer in a farmer's agricultural operation	No registration required.	Not applicable - use would be outside the scope of the farmer's agricultural operation.
Bumper-hitch livestock, flatbed, utility trailers used outside the scope of the farmer's agricultural operations	When traveling in Iowa, regular county registration required.	
Semitrailer	When traveling in Iowa, regular county registration required.	
Gooseneck trailer	When traveling in Iowa, regular county registration required.	
Straight Truck	When traveling in Iowa, need either (1) regular county registration or (2) may qualify for special farm registration	Regular county registration required.
Semi-Truck (Tractor Trailer)	When traveling in Iowa, need either (1) regular county registration or (2) may qualify for special farm registration	Regular county registration required.

If you have questions about entering neighboring states, please contact the offices below for any local laws specific to your situation.

Illinois	State Patrol Commercial Vehicles Section	217-782-6629
Kansas	Transportation Division	785-271-3145
Minnesota	Minnesota State Patrol	651-405-6171, option 3
Missouri	Missouri State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement	573-526-6128
Nebraska	Nebraska State Patrol, Carrier Enforcement Division	402-471-0105
South Dakota	Motor Carrier Headquarters	605-773-4578
Wisconsin	Motor Carrier Enforcement	608-267-9762

The Iowa DOT, your county treasurer, and the Iowa State Patrol are always happy to help you with any questions you may have pertaining to your farm vehicles and equipment.

The Iowa State Patrol's Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit (CMVU) offers community outreach sessions which includes providing online and printed materials, offering brief online educational videos, and answering questions received from farmers and agricultural businesses.



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA NURSE TANKS



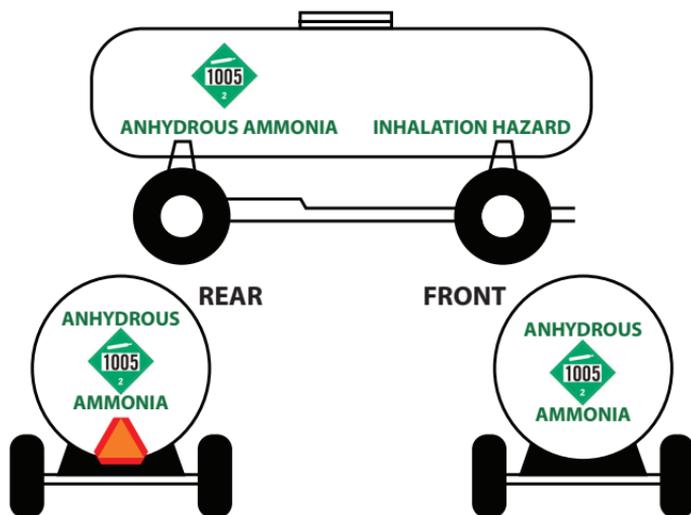
Iowa and Federal Regulations for Anhydrous Ammonia Nurse Tanks

Placards

You must display four placards – one on each side, and one on each end, except where fittings, valves, etc., prevent display on one end.

Markings

- “UN1005” must be marked on both sides and both ends of the nurse tank, except where fittings, valves, etc. prevent display on one end. This marking requirement may be satisfied by displaying “UN1005” on the center section of the placard.
- “Anhydrous Ammonia” must be lettered on each side and each end.
- “Inhalation Hazard” must be lettered on two opposing sides. Lettering must be a minimum of 2 inches high.
- The green color for markings is specified by Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship regulations.



Slow Moving Vehicle Sign

- The sign must be visible to the rear of the vehicle and at least 2 feet above the ground when operating consistently at speeds of 35 mph or less.
- For speeds, consistently at 36 mph or greater, the slow-moving vehicle sign must be covered or removed.

Shipping Papers

- Shipping papers are not required.

Trailers

- A truck may tow two trailers.
- The length limit is 70 feet for all three vehicles.
- Combinations of more than three vehicles is not allowed.

Safety

- Safety chains are required.
- Stopping is required for railroad grade crossings.

Lights

- **Amber Flashing Light** – A farm tractor, farm tractor with towed equipment, self-propelled implement of husbandry, road construction or maintenance vehicle, road grader, or other vehicle mostly designed for use off the highway must be equipped with and display an amber flashing light visible from the rear at any time from sunset to sunrise when operated on a primary or secondary road at a speed of 35 mph or less.

If the amber flashing light is obstructed by the towed equipment, the towed equipment must also be equipped with and display an amber flashing light.

- **Rear Lamps** – Every motor vehicle and every vehicle being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles must be equipped with a lighted rear lamp or lamps, showing a red light plainly visible from 500 feet to the rear from sunset to sunrise.

ASME Plate

- Hazardous Materials Regulations requires the tank to be manufactured according to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code and marked accordingly. ASME plates must be legible.
- If the ASME plate is missing or illegible, the nurse tank must undergo external visual, thickness, and pressure testing. After the nurse tank has successfully passed the visual, thickness, and pressure tests, it must be marked in accordance with US DOT Hazardous Materials Regulation 180.415(b), and must be permanently marked, near the test and inspection markings, with a unique owner's identification number in letters and numbers at least 1/2 inch in height and width.
- Periodic testing is required every 5 years after the initial tests are performed.

Helpful Contacts

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

Iowa DOT
 Motor Vehicle Division
 P.O. Box 9204 | Des Moines, IA 50306-0382
 Phone: 515-244-8725

Hazardous Materials Transportation Regulations

Iowa State Patrol
 Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit
 (CMVU)
 Email: CMVUinfo@dps.state.ia.us

Federal Motor Carrier Safety
 Administration
 105 Sixth St.
 Ames, IA 50010-6337
 Phone: 515-233-7400

Federal Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax

Internal Revenue Service
 Kansas City, MO 65999
 Phone: 800-829-1040

Livestock Health Certificates

Iowa Department of Agriculture Regulatory Division
 Wallace State Office Building
 502 E 9th St. | Des Moines, Iowa 50306-5304
 Phone: 515-281-5321

Motor Carrier Safety Regulations

Iowa State Patrol
 Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit
 (CMVU)
 Email: CMVUinfo@dps.state.ia.us

Federal Motor Carrier Safety
 Administration
 105 Sixth St.
 Ames, IA 50010-6337
 Phone: 515-233-7400
 Fax: 515-233-7494

Motor Fuel Tax / International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA)

Iowa DOT
 Motor Carrier Services
 P.O. Box 10382 | Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
 Phone: 515-237-3268
 Email: omcs@iowadot.us
iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/ifta-irp-filing

Over-Dimensional and Overweight Loads, Special Mobile Equipment, and Trip Permits

Iowa DOT
Motor Carrier Services | P.O. Box 10382
Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
Phone: 515-237-3264
Email: oversizepermits@iowadot.us
Website: iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers

Registration (Intrastate - within Iowa)

See your county treasurer's office

Registration (interstate) International Registration Plan (IRP) or prorate

Iowa DOT
Motor Carrier Services
P.O. Box 10382 | Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
Phone: 515-237-3268
Email: omcs@iowadot.us

Unified Carrier Registration, Travel Authority, and USDOT Numbers

Iowa DOT
Motor Carrier Services
P.O. Box 10382
Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0382
Phone: 515-237-3268
Email: omcs@iowadot.us

Federal Motor Carrier Safety
Administration
400 Virginia Ave. SW, Suite 600
P.O. Box 10382
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: 202-358-7027 or
202-358-7028
Website: fmcsa.dot.gov

Non-Primary Highway System
Maximum weights for vehicles on county and city highways

Table 1

Distance in feet between axle centers	Number of consecutive axles					
	Two axles	Three axles	Four axles	Five axles	Six axles	Seven axles
4	34,000	34,000				
5	34,000	34,000				
6	34,000	34,000				
7	34,000	34,000				
8	34,000	34,000				
8'1"	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500	45,000			
11	40,000	44,000	46,000			
12	40,000	45,000	47,000			
13	40,000	45,500	48,000	48,500		
14	40,000	46,500	49,000	49,500		
15	40,000	47,000	50,000	50,500		
16	40,000	48,000	51,000	51,500		
17	40,000	48,500	52,000	52,500	54,000	
18	40,000	49,500	53,000	53,500	55,000	
19	40,000	50,000	54,500	54,500	56,000	
20	40,000	51,000	55,500	55,500	57,000	
21	40,000	51,500	56,000	56,500	58,000	
22	40,000	52,500	56,500	57,500	59,000	
23	40,000	53,000	57,500	58,500	60,000	
24	40,000	54,000	58,000	59,500	61,000	
25	40,000	54,500	58,500	60,500	62,000	
26	40,000	55,500	59,500	61,500	63,000	
27	40,000	56,000	60,000	62,500	64,000	
28	40,000	57,000	60,500	63,500	65,000	
29	40,000	57,500	61,500	64,500	66,000	
30	40,000	58,500	62,000	65,500	67,000	
31	40,000	59,000	62,500	66,500	68,000	
32	40,000	60,000	63,500	67,500	69,000	
33	40,000	60,000	64,000	68,500	70,000	
34	40,000	60,000	64,500	69,500	71,000	
35	40,000	60,000	65,500	70,000	72,000	
36	40,000	60,000	68,000	70,500	73,000	
37	40,000	60,000	68,000	71,000	74,000	
38	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,000	75,000	
39	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,500	76,000	
40	40,000	60,000	68,500	73,000	77,000	
41	40,000	60,000	69,500	73,500	78,000	78,000
42	40,000	60,000	70,000	74,000	79,000	79,000
43	40,000	60,000	70,500	75,000	80,000	80,000
44	40,000	60,000	71,500	75,500	80,000	80,000
45	40,000	60,000	72,000	76,000	80,000	80,000
46	40,000	60,000	72,500	76,500	80,000	80,000
47	40,000	60,000	73,500	77,500	80,000	80,000
48	40,000	60,000	74,000	78,000	80,000	80,000
49	40,000	60,000	74,500	78,500	80,000	80,000
50	40,000	60,000	75,500	79,000	80,000	80,000
51	40,000	60,000	76,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
52	40,000	60,000	76,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
53	40,000	60,000	77,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
54	40,000	60,000	78,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
55	40,000	60,000	78,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
56	40,000	60,000	79,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
57	40,000	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

Table 2

Six and Seven-Axle Commercial Motor Vehicles

Maximum weights for six and seven-axle vehicles:

- Operated by a person with the appropriate class of CDL, or
- A person exempt from CDL requirements by Iowa Code 321.176A, and
- Operated on noninterstate highways

Distance in feet center of axles	Number of consecutive axles	
	Six axles	Seven axles
44	80,500	80,500
45	81,000	81,500
46	81,500	82,500
47	82,000	83,500
48	83,000	84,000
49	83,500	85,000
50	84,000	86,000
51	84,500	87,000
52	85,000	88,000
53	86,000	88,500
54	86,500	89,500
55	87,000	90,500
56	87,500	91,500
57	88,000	92,000
58	89,000	93,000
59	89,500	94,000
60	90,000	95,000
61	90,000	95,500
62	90,000	96,000

This table does not apply to vehicles operating on the Interstate Highway System.

Primary Highway System
Maximum weights for vehicles on the Interstate Highway System,
and noninterstate federal and state highways

Table 3

Distance in feet between axle centers	Number of consecutive axles					
	Two axles	Three axles	Four axles	Five axles	Six axles	Seven axles
4	34,000	34,000				
5	34,000	34,000				
6	34,000	34,000				
7	34,000	34,000				
8	34,000	34,000				
8'1"	38,000	42,000				
9	39,000	42,500				
10	40,000	43,500	48,500			
11	40,000	44,000	49,500			
12	40,000	45,000	50,000			
13	40,000	45,500	50,500	56,000		
14	40,000	46,500	51,500	57,000		
15	40,000	47,000	52,000	57,500		
16	40,000	48,000	52,500	58,000		
17	40,000	48,500	53,500	58,500	64,000	
18	40,000	49,500	54,000	59,000	65,000	
19	40,000	50,000	54,500	60,000	65,500	
20	40,000	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	71,500
21	40,000	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	72,500
22	40,000	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	73,000
23	40,000	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	73,500
24	40,000	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000
25	40,000	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500
26	40,000	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000
27	40,000	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	76,000
28	40,000	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500
29	40,000	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000
30	40,000	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500
31	40,000	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000
32	40,000	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500
33	40,000	60,000	64,000	68,500	74,000	79,500
34	40,000	60,000	64,500	69,500	74,500	80,000
35	40,000	60,000	65,500	70,000	75,000	80,000
36	40,000	60,000	68,000	70,500	75,500	80,000
37	40,000	60,000	68,000	71,000	76,000	80,000
38	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,000	77,000	80,000
39	40,000	60,000	68,000	72,500	77,500	80,000
40	40,000	60,000	68,500	73,000	78,000	80,000
41	40,000	60,000	69,500	73,500	78,500	80,000
42	40,000	60,000	70,000	74,000	79,000	80,000
43	40,000	60,000	70,500	75,000	80,000	80,000
44	40,000	60,000	71,500	75,500	80,000	80,000
45	40,000	60,000	72,000	76,000	80,000	80,000
46	40,000	60,000	72,500	76,500	80,000	80,000
47	40,000	60,000	73,500	77,500	80,000	80,000
48	40,000	60,000	74,000	78,000	80,000	80,000
49	40,000	60,000	74,500	78,500	80,000	80,000
50	40,000	60,000	75,500	79,000	80,000	80,000
51	40,000	60,000	76,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
52	40,000	60,000	76,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
53	40,000	60,000	77,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
54	40,000	60,000	78,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
55	40,000	60,000	78,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
56	40,000	60,000	79,500	80,000	80,000	80,000
57	40,000	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000



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Iowa DOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination statutes. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Iowa DOT Civil Rights at 515-239-1111 or by email at civil.rights@iowadot.us.